

**To:** Diamond, Jane[Diamond.Jane@epa.gov]; Zito, Kelly[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV]; Mogharabi, Nahal[MOGHARABI.NAHAL@EPA.GOV]  
**Cc:** Montgomery, Michael[Montgomery.Michael@epa.gov]; Johnson, AudreyL[Johnson.AudreyL@epa.gov]  
**From:** Albright, David  
**Sent:** Wed 7/9/2014 6:33:48 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Press call on DOGGR Orders

Agreed. I would not suggest any other changes.

**From:** Diamond, Jane  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 11:33 AM  
**To:** Zito, Kelly; Mogharabi, Nahal  
**Cc:** Albright, David; Montgomery, Michael; Johnson, AudreyL  
**Subject:** RE: Press call on DOGGR Orders

With Kelly's change, I agree it's fine for Nahal to share with the reporter. We did share the desk statement with DOGGR, and I presume Bill sent it to his counterpart at Conservation or Resources.

Jane Diamond

Water Director, EPA Region 9

415-947-8707

**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 11:31 AM  
**To:** Mogharabi, Nahal; Diamond, Jane  
**Cc:** Albright, David; Montgomery, Michael; Johnson, AudreyL  
**Subject:** RE: Press call on DOGGR Orders

Program folks may have some other edits, but it seems we should change "This week" to "Last week" in the first line of last paragraph...

**From:** Mogharabi, Nahal

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 11:29 AM  
**To:** Diamond, Jane; Zito, Kelly  
**Cc:** Albright, David; Montgomery, Michael; Johnson, AudreyL  
**Subject:** RE: Press call on DOGGR Orders

The reporter didn't give me any specific details, but mentioned that he wanted to know how did DOGGR come to the conclusion that those wells had to be closed and what role has the EPA played?

I think that only DOGGR can answer the first part of his question, and I think that we can share with him the desk statement (below) that talks about EPA's role.

Let me know if folks are ok with me sharing the below with the reporter and referring him to DOGGR for details on their investigation. Thanks!

**In March 1983, U.S. EPA granted regulatory authority to the State of California's Division of Oil & Gas (now Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources, or DOGGR) for certain types of wells (Class II) that are used primarily to inject steam or water for enhanced oil/gas recovery, or to inject waste water (such as brines) from oil and gas production. As part of EPA's regulatory oversight, EPA approves the use of groundwater aquifers where these wells could be used, typically in areas in or near oil and gas production activity where groundwater quality is very poor. These aquifers are "exempted" from the protection provided for drinking water sources by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and therefore can be used safely for enhanced oil/gas recovery and disposal of related fluids. Higher quality aquifers that could serve as a potential source of drinking water are not exempt, and should not receive Class II oil and gas related injection fluids.**

-

**This week DOGGR issued orders to cease injections into aquifers that have not been exempted by EPA. DOGGR is evaluating potential risks to drinking water sources from the injection wells at these facilities. EPA will oversee a broader review of DOGGR's program to ensure wells have been appropriately authorized to inject within the boundaries approved by EPA. Meanwhile, EPA Region 9 is working cooperatively with the staff at DOGGR, as well the State's Drinking Water Program to protect human health and the environment.**

---

**Nahal Mogharabi**

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Los Angeles

D: 213-244-1815| C: 213-514-4361| E:mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov

**From:** Diamond, Jane

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 10:28 AM

**To:** Zito, Kelly

**Cc:** Keener, Bill; Mogharabi, Nahal; Albright, David

**Subject:** RE: Press call on DOGGR Orders

Yes, Bill sent it around mid-afternoon on July 2 (you have), after incorporating input from Alexis et al. Let us know if you need anything else.

Jane Diamond

Water Director, EPA Region 9

415-947-8707

**From:** Zito, Kelly

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 10:24 AM

**To:** Albright, David; Mogharabi, Nahal

**Cc:** Keener, Bill; Diamond, Jane

**Subject:** RE: Press call on DOGGR Orders

Thanks, David.

Did we finalize a desk statement that we wanted to use?

Alexis may want to see any statement we develop.

kelly

**From:** Albright, David  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 09, 2014 9:46 AM  
**To:** Mogharabi, Nahal  
**Cc:** Keener, Bill; Zito, Kelly; Diamond, Jane  
**Subject:** Press call on DOGGR Orders

Hi Nahal,

I received a call from John Cox of the Bakersfield Californian this morning. His message stated that he has questions about DOGGR's emergency orders and wants to talk to someone at EPA. His number is (661) 395-7345. Thanks, David

\*\*\*\*\*

David Albright, Manager  
Ground Water Office

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| USEPA, Region IX        | Phone: 415.972.3971   |
| 75 Hawthorne Street     | Fax: 415.947.3549   |
| Mail Code: WTR-9        | Email: <a href="mailto:albright.david@epa.gov">albright.david@epa.gov</a> |
| San Francisco, CA 94105 |   |

\*\*\*\*\*